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LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the representative of the State currently holding the Presidency of the statutory organs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the decision of 17 October 1996 of the CIS Council of Heads of State concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) C. LAVROV

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Annex

Decision concerning an extension of and an addition to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),

Confirming their previous decisions and commitments concerning the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia,

Noting that the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces facilitates the stabilization of the situation in the conflict zone and the creation of the conditions for a comprehensive political settlement in that region,

Has decided:

1. To extend with the consent of the Parties the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, until 31 January 1997 or until such time as one of the Parties to the conflict calls for the termination of the operation.

2. To add the following provisions to the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces:

- In order to create the conditions under which the security of refugees in the Gali region (within the old frontiers) can be guaranteed, in addition to the functions of the CIS peacekeeping forces under the Ceasefire and Separation of Forces Agreement of 14 May 1994, the Collective Peacekeeping Forces, in conjunction and in cooperation with the local organs of power of the Parties, shall take measures to terminate the activities of the terrorist subversive formations and other armed groups both positioned in the region and entering it from outside;

- They shall guarantee the security of the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and of other international organizations at their request and in agreement with the local organs of power.

3. To instruct the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Commonwealth and the Council of Ministers of Defence of the States Members of the Commonwealth to continue to work together with the representatives of the Parties to update the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the light of developments in the situation in the conflict zone and in accordance with the decisions of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of 19 January 1996 and 17 May 1996.

4. To urge the Parties to step up their efforts to achieve, through the mediation of the Russian Federation, practical results in the negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

This Decision has been adopted in accordance with the procedure established in rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE in Moscow on 17 October 1996 in one original copy in the Russian language. The original copy shall be deposited in the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which shall transmit a certified copy to each State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

B. YELTSIN
President of the Council of Heads
of State of the Commonwealth of
Independent States